THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 39. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :— Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Dec. 13th, 3 p.m.—Marble Arch, Hyde Park—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Bouvier and others.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. E. Duval.
Monday, Dec. 14th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall—Miss Barry.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Salmon Lane, Poplar-Mrs. Drake.
8.30 p.m.—Lesbia Rd—Mrs. Walker.
Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 2.30 p.m.—
8 p.m.—Limehouse—Burdett Road—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Tidal Basin, 14 Butcher's Rd—Miss Phillips
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mr. L. Franklin.
8 p.m.—Bromley, St. Leonard's Hall.
Wednesday, Dec. 16th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St. Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, Dec. 17th, 3 p.m. — Deacon's Vestry— Mrs. Walshe.
8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow Choir Practice.
Friday, Dec. 18th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Figgott St.—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Canning Town—Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Walker.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

Miss FOX'S CONCERT

WOMEN'S HALL,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12th, at 8 p.m.

SONGS AND DANCES IN COSTUME.

ADMISSION FREE. Collection in aid of E.L.F.S. Funds.

THE MEMBERS' NEW YEAR PARTY.

The Members' New Year Party will be held in Bow Baths, on the evening of January 2nd. Volunteers for the entertainment and those who will contribute towards the refreshments should write to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. Mrs. Murray Clark, Mrs. Inez Bensusan, and Miss Irene Bowvier have kindly promised their services.

THE CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

The E.L.F.S. is arranging three Children's Parties in the New Year, one to be held in Bow Baths, on Saturday afternoon, January 2nd, one in Poplar Town Hall, on January 11th, and one in Canning Town. Promises of refreshments and presents for the children should be sent to Miss Mackay, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E. Miss Evelyn Sharp has promised to tell some fairy stories. Miss Irene Bouvier has promised to sing. Mr. Broadbear has promised to bring his band. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett has promised to be responsible for the Christmas Tree.

We expect to entertain about 2,000 children, and as each child is to have a present, we shall need upwards of 2000 gifts. Please send us dolls, toys and little garments for these functions

Our Christmas number will be published on December 23rd. It will cost one penny. Be sure to order it in good time.

MILK DAYS

STREET COLLECTIONS WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE

Milk for necessitous Mothers and Babies of East London

ON

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, DEC. 16th and 17th.

WHO WILL HELP BY TAKING A BOX?

COME TO FETCH BABY'S MILK.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Our milk bill increases weekly. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of:—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT.

Nurse Hebbes has prepared us a chart for infant feeding, and this is published as a free leaflet. Mothers who wish to have it can obtain it at any of our centres.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Monday at 6 p.m., and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

MORE INSULTS TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

At the close of last week further steps were taken by the authorities to rivet police supervision upon soldiers' wives and mothers.

The following memorandum was sent out from the Home Office to local police offices throughout the country:—

I am directed by the Secretary of State to bring to your notice the revised conditions, of which a copy is enclosed, as to the payment of separation allowances to the unworthy, and to say that the Army Council hope to receive the assistance of the police in this matter. The Army Council and the Secretary of State are both anxious that the police should endeavour by all means in their power to prevent such a course of conduct on the part of women as would be likely to lead to the loss of the allowance.

The allowances granted to the wives and dependents of soldiers are now on a more liberal scale than hitherto, and the result has been to put in the hands of many of them larger sums than they have previously enjoyed. This has happened at a time when these women are deprived of the company and guidance of their husbands, and are subject sometimes to extreme anxiety, and a other times to natural feelings of pride and exultation. Under these circumstances many who ordinarily are quiet and well conducted are exposed to special temptations, and may be led momentarily to careless spending of money and excessive drinking not in accordance with their ordinary habits.

In such cases it is believed that discreet and tactful action on the part of the police may be a real assistance in inducing them to refrain from drinking and to resume their normal mode of life.

Should the "tactful" efforts of policemen be reported to have failed, the women are to lose the allowances which the War Office has pledged itself to pay.

It was further announced that soldiers' dependents are to have their "records" indexed by the local police. Army paymasters were instructed to forward at once to the Chief Constables of counties and towns all particulars of those receiving allotments and separation allowances.

To the criminals, convicts on ticket-of-leave, and suspected persons, the only people whose records have hitherto been indexed at police stations, soldiers' wives are added. Already the police have begun to enter and inspect the homes of soldiers' wives, and to ask them if they drink too much, and why, as in one case we know of, two bedrooms should be occupied instead of one. Some women have even been ordered to have their photographs taken, in order that they may supply the police with the means of identifying them. One soldier's wife has told us that she dare not glance at a newspaper for fear she may see printed therein some regulation with which she will be ordered to comply.

Protests have naturally been made against this tightening of the objectionable and insulting police net around the soldiers' wives. Sir Edward Henry, the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, has therefore issued a modified police order as follows:—

"When a woman is arrested for being drunk and incapable, drunk and disorderly, or drunk in charge of children, she will be detained at the police station until sober. If she is the wife of a soldier or sailor, the station officer will not proceed with the charge, but will appeal to her better nature, warn her of the serious consequences, including the loss of separation allowance, that must ensue if she persists in such irregularity of conduct, and urge upon her to prove herself worthy of the husband who is away fighting for his country.

"A record will be kept of such admonition having been given. Should the wife of a soldier or a sailor be convicted in Court on a drinking charge after previous warnings, or of immorality, or other serious offence, the fact of the conviction will be reported."

This order is supposed to be less stringent and offensive than the earlier orders that have been issued, but we protest most emphatically against any such regulations.

This order is monstrously unjust for under it a woman has no opportunity to defend herself in open Court. She is liable to lose her livelihood without trial through confidential reports.

No special rules are needed for the control of soldiers' wives, they must not be treated like a pariah class apart. Whilst subject to the ordinary law, like other people, they must have preserved to them all the safeguards against unjust accusation and punishment, all the personal liberty of action that have been won by other members of the community.

At Chesterfield notices are hung in the schools headed:

CESSATION OF SEPARATION ALLOWANCES TO THE UNWORTHY DEPENDENTS OF SOLDIERS & SAILORS.

These notices suggest that school managers should report cases in which soldiers' and sailors' children come to school in a neglected condition.

It is appalling that the children should see such notices hanging in the schools, and it should be remembered that the allowances of soldiers' wives and mothers are too small for them to provide for the children as they would wish. Let the Government pluck out the huge beam from its own eye before it begins to seek for the motes that may be in those of the women.

A correspondent writes to give the case of a soldier's wife receiving 12s. 6d. This is her only income. Her rent is 6s. 6d., insurance 1s. There is only 5s. left for food, fire, clothes and everything else. She is an invalid suffering from a very acute form of rheumatism and has recently had a serious operation. She is still a patient at the dispensary and is told that she must have nourishing food. Our correspondent points out that in a case like this a separation allowance of 12s. 6d. means slow starvation.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE MONEY!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name .....

Address .....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St. Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 39.—Saturday, Dec. 12th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S FUND IN POPLAR.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Out of 253 payments made during a period of four weeks to persons adjudged by one Ward Committee to be eligible for relief, 107 were less than the Government scale of 10s. for one adult, 14s. for two adults living together, 4s. 6d. a week each additional adult, 1s. 6d. a week for each child, and a maximum of 20s. for the family. It is not quite clear whether the Cabinet Committee means that 20s. is the maximum amount of relief to be given to any family, or whether they mean that in no case can a family income be made up to more than 20s. But these 107 cases were below even the strictest interpretation of the Government scale.

In the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT for November 28th we explained that the Mayor had announced a week before that he would cut down relief, and in spite of Mr. John Burns's assurance to our deputation that we were more "frightened than hurt," the scale has gone down ever since.

Here are a few instances:—The Government scale of relief for one adult is 10s. In Poplar one man who was thrown out of work through the War, and earning nothing, got 10s. on November 14th, but 1s. was knocked off this sum on November 21st, and the 9s. was afterwards adhered to. Another man got 10s. on November 14th, having earned nothing, 8s. on November 21st, having earned 4s. 3d., 7s. on November 28th, having earned nothing, and 7s. again on December 5th, having again earned nothing. The women on the whole came off worse. One who got 10s. on Nov. 14th, got only 8s. on November 21st, because she had earned 1s. 6d. instead of nothing; on December 5th her total income was reduced by another 1s., and became 8s. 6d. A woman of 60, who was first relieved on November 28th, got only 4s., though she had earned nothing; the next week when she earned 2s. she was given 6s. Her earnings before the War were 9s. to 12s.

A man and wife or two other adults living together are supposed, under the Government scale, to get 14s. At Bow Baths a woman, whose husband got the 5s. Old Age Pension, got 9s. on November 14th, 8s. November 21st, her earnings being nil. She did two days' work in the week ending November 28th and again got 8s. In the week ending December 5th she earned nothing, but her relief was reduced to 6s. The husband and wife, therefore, got 11s. between them instead of 14s. A man and wife, whose earnings for the week ending November 14th were 3s. got 7s. In the week ending November 28th their earnings dropped to 2s. 1d., and they were only given 4s. relief; their joint income was thus 6s. 1d. On December 5th they had earned 2s. 5d. and again were given 4s. The woman is a tailoress, the man's work is connected with Christmas Cards. Both are suffering through the War. A husband and wife who got 14s. between them on November 14th and 21st got only 10s. on November 28th and December 5th. The man is a machine ruler out of work through the War.

Great vacillation which resulted in considerable fluctuation of income characterised the treatment meted out to a man and woman who, on November 14th, got 10s., having earned nothing, on November 21st, 7s., having earned 15s., on November 28th, 10s., having earned nothing, on December 5th, 5s., having earned nothing. We are told that the L.G.B. Inspector is very doubtful whether the distress in this case is due to the War. He ought not to be in doubt as to whether two adults can subsist on 5s. a week!

A man and woman with one child are entitled to 15s. 6d. under the Government scale. This scale provides but a very low standard of livelihood; the family of three cannot possibly be maintained in good physical condition upon it; but the Mayor of Poplar has in many cases beaten the scale of relief down further. One man with a wife and child received 15s. at the Baths on November 14th, but on the 21st relief was reduced to 14s., although the man had earned nothing.

But there are worse cases than this. Under the Government scale two adults and two children are supposed to have 17s. A man and woman and two children who on November 14th got 17s. relief were only given 10s. on November 21st, and again on November 28th, although the relief, which is in the form of food tickets, was the only income that they had. Perhaps the relief was first reduced, in part, because the wife came for it instead of her husband, although a Government circular has said that, where possible, relief should be given to the woman, rather than to the man. Once the relief is reduced it is difficult to get it raised, for the Mayor says: "Keep it down."

Two adults and three children are supposed to have 18s. 6d. In one family of this size, where the earnings were nil, 12s. was given at Bow Baths on November 14th, 10s. the following week when 3s. 9d. had been earned, and again 10s. when 2s. 6d. had been earned. In this case the woman was supporting an invalid husband and children. Before the War she earned 16s.

To a man and woman with four or more children the Government scale gives 20s. At Bow Baths a man who was a general labourer earning nominally 20s. to 25s., and who had a wife and four children, the family income being now nil, got 15s. on November 21st and 12s. on November 28th!

On December 5th he had earned 4s. and the relief was raised to 14s., which brought the total income up to 18s., and gave the family only 2s. less than the scale to which they were entitled. In another case of a bricklayer, with a wife and four children, on November 14th, when the income was again nil, 19s. was given. On December 5th, when the income was again nil, only 18s. was given.

Women with children dependent on them usually come off badly, whichever authority they happen to deal with. Under the Government scale a woman with one child is entitled to 11s. 6d., a woman with two children to 13s. At Bow Baths a woman who had a boy of seven and a girl of ten dependent on her, and who first attended for relief on November 28th, had earned 1s., and was only given 3s. relief. Next week she had earned 2s. 6d. and was again given 3s. She was a charwoman who had lost her employment through the War. Another woman with four children, who would be entitled to 16s. under the Government scale, received this amount on November 14th and 21st, but got only 14s. on November 28th, and only 10s. on December 5th.

The Cabinet Committee's regulations do not define precisely what is to be done in the case of children over school age, who either normally or at the time are earning. If they are earning, the scale does not dictate whether a whole or part of their earnings are to be counted as the parents' income, and whether they are to be allowed for at the child's maintenance rate of 1s. 6d., or whether they are to have 4s. 6d. like an adult. No systematic rule appears to guide those who dole out relief in the Borough of Poplar, and unfortunately the chaotic nature of the arrangements are probably not confined to that Borough. The position is especially hard in the case of widows with children over school age. One woman who has a child earning 3s. 6d., and who is herself a pickle-hand thrown out of work through the War, received at Bow Baths 7s. on November 14th. Even if the wage-earning child were to be treated as a child, she was surely entitled to 11s. 6d. instead of 10s. 6d., to which the family income now amounted. But surely it is impossible to consider that a wage-earning child can be fed and clothed for 1s. 6d.! The allowance is scandalously low for a child going to school. As a matter of fact any mother can testify that girls and boys in their teens should *eat* about 7s. worth of food, apart from other expenses. East London mothers protest like others that they cannot keep growing youths on bread and tea. As a matter of fact, if the wage-earning child is to be entitled to 4s. 6d. maintenance, this woman's income ought to have been brought up to 14s. 6d., not to 10s. 6d. But 10s. 6d. was evidently thought too large an income for her by the authorities in Poplar, for on November 28th her relief was cut down to 6s., though it was next week increased to 8s. at the urgent request of the Ward Committee. Another woman with one dependent child and two wage-earning children, earning 8s. between them, got on November 14th, 11s., on November 21st, 10s., and on November 28th, only 7s. On December 5th she had earned 1s. and the relief was reduced to 6s. A woman with two wage-earning children, earning between them 6s., got 8s. relief the first week, 8s. the second, and only 7s. the third. In another case a man and woman with two wage-earning children, earning between them 8s. 6d., got 14s. on November 21st, and 12s. on November 28th. In this family the eldest son was a Reservist, who has been home ill for a long time. His Army pay is stopped until he recovers. How can he get well under such conditions?

The Government scale, in itself disgracefully low, was fixed after very lengthy discussion. We are told that the Cabinet Committee had determined on a lower scale, and that the Prince of Wales's Fund Committee urged a higher one. Finally, three members from each Committee were appointed to sit together and decide the matter, and after many hours disputing they arrived at a compromise. The scale adopted by this joint committee and put forth as a model for Mayors' Committees to work on is low. It has been greeted with protest on many hands. But what is the reason of the fact that in the Borough of Poplar and we fear that this Borough is not single in wrong doing, a lower scale is being enforced? Who is to blame? Is it the Mayor, is he acting merely from a spirit of Pecksniffian meanness, or is there some other reason? We believe that the Mayor has gravely failed in his duty. He but seldom summons the main committee, to whom he should hold himself responsible. When a committee is on rare occasions summoned, the Mayor does not give the committee an opportunity to aid in solving the problems that have arisen. On the contrary, he sharply resents both question and criticism, whether these be addressed to the central authorities or to himself, and can with difficulty be induced to explain anything that he has done. Yet in spite of the Mayor's unsatisfactory attitude, we believe that the Cabinet Committee is chiefly to blame for the miserable meanness with which persons suffering as a result of the War are being treated. The Mayor tells us that for the paltry doles that he is giving out he has had to plead "like a cripple at the gate." We protest that he is wrong in adopting this attitude. He should show some manliness and backbone, and insist upon getting justice for the people of his Borough. He should call upon the main committee and the citizens, whom it is supposed to represent, to back him up in his demands.

But the Cabinet Committee has refused to face the realities of the situation. It declares that because the riverside trade is fairly good and numbers of unemployed dockers have been taken away to dig trenches, the people of the Borough cannot be in want, although it has been demonstrated positively that many persons in the Borough are dependent on other trades, such as cabinet-making, furniture-polishing, paper-staining, which are seriously affected by the War, it refuses to consider this undoubted fact. The Cabinet Committee blindly declares that the relief for the unemployed must be cut down. The number of cases relieved must be reduced, and, as far as is possible to him, the Mayor has proceeded meekly to obey. The result is both chaotic and unjust. What is to be done? We can understand that the Government dislikes the idea of continually paying out money to workless people which brings in no return, but the way to remedy the evil is to find work for the unemployed, not to starve them. But what are we to do? We must not content ourselves with criticising the Government and abusing the Mayor. The shabby meannesses of the Borough of Poplar obtain, to a greater or lesser extent, all over the country, and our country cannot afford to be starving its population at a time like this.

We have endeavoured to secure the calling of a Poplar Town's Meeting, in order that the citizens may confer together on this most important matter; but though the regulation number of signatures have been sent in, the Borough Councillors have refused the Town's Meeting. One of their excuses is that this is not a local but a national question. The statement is vitally true, although the excuse is despicable.

The Town's Meeting having been refused, it behoves all those who care for the well-being of the people and the just administration of public funds, to hold popular meetings through the organisations to which they belong. The East London Federation of the Suffragettes will hold meetings both in Bow Baths and Poplar Town Hall to call public attention to this question, at an early date.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

READING MAYOR'S COMMITTEE on STRIKE

The Reading Mayor's Committee has resolved by a majority of almost two to one to refuse to administer the Government scale of relief under the Prince of Wales's fund on the ground that this scale is hopelessly inadequate.

When a similar resolution was moved by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst in Poplar, it fell to the ground unseconded, but apparently the Reading Committee is of more courageous mould.

The Reading Committee is *threatened* with a withdrawal of grants of money from the centre, but the committee refuses to knuckle under, even the Mayor disdains to plead "like a cripple at a gate." At a great meeting of Labour organisations, a resolution approving the committee's action was carried unanimously.

WHAT ABOUT OUR BRITISH LIBERTIES.

The Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, is called "An Act to confer on His Majesty in Council power to make Regulations during the present War for the Defence of the Realm." When passed on August 8th the Act gave power to issue regulations as to the Admiralty and Army Council for securing the safety of the public, the railways, docks and harbours, means of communication, and the defence of the Realm, and to prevent persons from communicating with or assisting the enemy, or from jeopardising the success of the British forces, and to punish those who attempted to do these things on trial by courts martial.

On August 28th the Act was extended, and power was given—

(1) To try by courts martial persons spreading reports "likely to cause disaffection or alarm."

(2) To put under martial law, not merely railways, docks, harbours, and means of communication, but "any area which may be proclaimed by the Admiralty or Army Council to be an area which it is necessary to safeguard in the interests of the training or concentration of any of His Majesty's forces."

(3) Also to give power to the Admiralty and Army Council to make bye-laws to seize land and to exercise any other powers under the Defence Acts of 1842 and 1875, and the Military Land Acts of 1891 to 1903.

This Act gives the Army extraordinary powers. Under it men and women may be refused trial by jury, even when our ordinary civil courts are in session, and may be sentenced by an impromptu court of a few soldiers, whom war has rendered careless of human life, to long terms of imprisonment or even death.

The first victims of the new Act are those five poor women of Cardiff, who are each of them serving out 62 days imprisonment for being out of doors between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.

But which of us is safe? Free speech is most seriously threatened by this Defence of the Realm Act.

IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

The *Board of Trade Labour Gazette*, published on November 16th, contains an article on unemployment amongst women. Improvement during October is reported, but certain occupations and localised trades are "still seriously affected." Dressmakers, domestic servants, clerks and waitresses are specially mentioned; 457 waitresses, 1,078 clerks, 1,190 dressmakers, and 2,487 daily servants were on the registers of the London Labour Exchanges on Oct. 16th. When it is considered how comparatively little use is made of Labour Exchanges by women, it will be realised how serious a state of things these figures represent. In the provinces various local industries have been affected. The laundry trade in Cambridge is reported as "very much affected by the small number of students now in residence." In Bristol "sweet factories and the stationary factories have either closed down or have been working short time." At Exeter, "collar workers have been dismissed and in Derry the collar trade is reported as "very slack" (the troops do not wear linen collars). The lace trade (Nottingham, Derby and Eaton) was "bad before the War, and is now still worse." All branches of cotton operatives, "except those engaged on heavy cotton sheeting," continue to suffer heavily through the War.

The *Labour Gazette* does not report on "under-employment" as well as unemployment amongst women, but we understand that certain large drapery establishments in the West End have reduced their women-employees' pay by half, telling them that they "cannot afford to pay more," while demanding from them more work than usual, owing to the absence of the male employees at the War. This comes at a time when the women dare not strike against such a measure for fear of losing their employment altogether, with no prospect of finding fresh work. It is further to be considered that the rise in prices has already affected the spending power of wages—food having risen 12 to 13 per cent. since July (Board of Trade figures). This means that in food 10s. *will now go not quite so far as* 9s. went before war began—that £1 in wages is only equivalent to 18s. where it is spent mainly on food. To reduce wages at such a time is little short of criminal.

HOW THEY WASTE THE TAXES.

Lloyd's Weekly reports a case heard at Shoreditch County Court which reveals a strange story of prices paid for soldier's belts.

It was given in evidence that after the Boer War there was a stock of 1,500,000 belts at the Army Clothing Stores at Pimlico. These had cost 20s. 11d. a dozen, and they were sold round the trade at a price averaging 4s. a dozen. A job buyer, who contracted to purchase a quantity at 6s. 9d. a dozen from a draper to meet the present demand, resold them at 18s. a dozen.

This job buyer, Mr. Mark Abrahams, of 181 Holmleigh Road, Stamford Hill, sued Mr. Herbert John Ormond, the Mayor of Stoke Newington, who trades as Maurice G. Ormond, draper, of 147A High Street, Stoke Newington, to recover £95 7s. 9d. The wife of Mr. Abrahams called at the shop of Mr. Ormond and bought the entire stock of body-belts, which an assistant said was 123 dozen at 6s. 9d. a dozen. A deposit of £25 was paid. Mr. Ormond was out at the time, and later he sent a messenger to Mr. Abrahams to say that a mistake had been made by his assistant, as he had only ten dozen in stock. Mr. Abrahams, however, insisted on the carrying out of the contract, as he had sold the belts at 18s. a dozen.

A witness said he had purchased thousands of the belts at 18s. a dozen, and would buy any quantity now, as they were wanted for the troops.

Judge Cluer held that as the defendant had not the goods no assistant could bind him. He therefore gave judgment for the defendant.

Leave to appeal was granted.

The War Office would save more money by employing people of good business capacity to prevent the taxpayers money being wasted in this way, than by cutting down the wages of the women who work in its Pimlico clothing factory to their present shamefully low level.

WHAT ABOUT THE PAY?

The *Times* of December 8th, in a paragraph on Christmas work at the G.P.O.; states that, in consequence of the War, "Women have been transferred to offices previously staffed by men." Are they getting a man's pay for a man's work? Is the total wages bill of the department undiminished?

Referring to the training scheme which is being put into operation by the London Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, the *Times* of December 4th, says:—"The schemes comprise training in commercial subjects, dressmaking, &c., for unemployed women secretaries, shorthand-typists and others ordinarily engaged in commericial occupations; training in domestic economy for industrial women as "home helpers." It is proposed to pay the commercial women a maintenance grant of 10s. a week, and the industrial women 3d. per hour, with a maximum of 10s. per week." If this is really "training and maintenance," why is one set of women given a definite sum per week and the other paid according to the number of hours attendance? Ten shillings as a maintenance allowance cannot be termed extravagant, and if an "industrial woman" is prevented by ill-health or otherwise from attending for the maximum number of hours her rent and food and fuel will not cost her less. Why is not she also guaranteed a certain (if inadequate) maintenance? Moreover why should she go short, when the workroom fails to give her a full week's work, while a woman who gets relief from the Prince of Wales's fund without working is supposed to get 10s?

The Queen's Work for Women fund has enabled 16 London boroughs and 44 provincial committees to start schemes for the "employment" of women. "Several thousands" of women are said to have been provided for temporarily in this way, but since 40,000 women were computed to have been thrown out of work by the War *in London alone*, the outlook is not so bright as these rosy accounts of the "Queen's Workrooms" would have us believe. Nothing is said of what is to happen to these women when the War or Queen Mary's fund comes to an end. If women had votes to be "caught," someone would be troubling his head about their position.

Workrooms for unemployed women have been opened in Melville Street, Edinburgh. It is reported in the *Scotsman* that Colonel Cranston has ordered the shirts for the soldiers of his regiment there. Are the women in this workroom paid at the rate of 3d. an hour? If so, a strong protest should be made by the women of Edinburgh, who, when employed in the clothing trade in the ordinary way must not be paid less than 3½d. an hour. Private employers too might have something to say on this point.

VICTIMS OF WAR.

The inquest on the death of a Southwark baby, led to the disclosure of the fact, that a man and his wife and six children had been struggling to live on 12s. 6d. a week out of which there was 6s. 6d. rent to pay. The man was working only three days a week on account of the War. His baby, at 15 months, weighed 7 lb. 6 oz. instead of 18 lbs. or 20 lbs. as it should have done. They had had no relief. The last touch of irony was added by the verdict of the coroner's jury "Death from *natural* causes."

And women—wives and mothers whose babies are dying of starvation through the effects of the War, are denied the vote because they have no "stake in the country," no "interest in Imperial affairs!"

WITH THE 17th, TRENCH-DIGGING.

BY A SOLDIER FROM BOW.

A short time ago readers of the DREADNOUGHT had an opportunity of reading about the East-End "Terriers" 17th Batt. and their work at Hatfield. Since then they have been away on the East Coast for three weeks, with their neighbours of the 5th London Brigade, viz., the 18th, 19th and 20th County of London, for the purpose of trench-digging in case of invasion. The 17th was the first to leave Hatfield. We marched to St. Albans. Every man, in addition to his complete equipment, carried a waterproof sheet and blanket, which made his load fairly heavy. Arrived at St. Albans, the battalion entrained for Braintree, and got there soon after noon. We had to stop just before we reached Stratford Station in order to put on an extra engine. Many of us had an inclination to get out and go home, but thinking discretion the better part of valour, and not wishing to be thrown into "clink," we contented ourselves by "wishing" we were at home. All along the line we had a great reception. People flocked to their windows and waved farewells, many ran into their gardens and cheered us (backyards at Stratford). No doubt they thought we were off to the front. I'm so sorry that they were taken in. When we arrived at Braintree we were all put to our billets, the majority of us being housed with the inhabitants, we also had beds (many of us had not seen a bed since we left Bow, let alone lain in one). The work was arranged as follows: One half of the battalion would do four hours' work in the morning, and the other half four hours in the afternoon. Each man had to carry a pick or spade besides his rifle and pack. The last week we were there the whole battalion went to work by train at 7.30 in the morning, worked till 3.30, and arrived home at 4.30. The reason why we went by train was that the place was over 8 miles away. You will understand why I am not allowed to say where the trenches are situated, but I will give as full particulars as I deem necessary. We had to dig trenches to fire from, communication trenches, shelters for the wounded, and gun pits. The ordinary trenches are deep enough to reach a man's shoulders and wide enough to turn round in. Unlike former times the earth instead of being banked up in front or behind the trench, is scattered out and made level with the ground. The reason for this being that the Germans, who are experts in range taking of anything that they see, having got the range of these banks of earth, would wipe out, with accurate fire from their artillery, the men in the trenches. At certain distances banks of earth are built up in the trenches in the shape of buttresses. These are called "traverses." They prevent the men in the trench from being killed in large numbers when fired on in a flanking movement by the enemy, or what is called "enfilate fire." When a shell explodes it will only hit the men in one part of the trench, those at the other side of the traverse will have a chance to escape, whereas if there were no traverse the whole lot in the trench would be killed or injured. The communication trenches lead from the firing line to other trenches in the rear, used for reserves. They also enable men to move to any part of the position in safety and without being seen. Then there are the shelters, these are big square pits, about 8 or 9 foot deep, and covered in by timber and sheet iron, with a few feet of earth on top. They can be used as field kitchens, shelters for the wounded, sleeping places, and stores. These also have a passage to the trenches. Then there are the gun pits for the big guns. These also are covered in so as to hide the guns from hostile air-craft. To build these trenches hundreds of trees have had to be cut down in the firing line, miles of hedges have been pulled down to make bottoms for the trenches, so as to drain the water off. There are trenches all round the East Coast, how many and where I cannot tell you. It has taken weeks of hard work to dig them, and the clay and gravel in that part is not soft either. The cottages and farmhouses in the immediate vicinity where the men have been working have done a roaring trade in the way of refreshments. Many of the men would be missing, but they could always be found in a cottage or inn! One Sunday we had to march eight miles and work till 3.30. We always used to sing on the march, but when we found out that we had also to march back there wasn't any singing. The Colonel didn't arf go through it (a good job he did not hear). The language was almost equal to Billingsgate, quite unprintable anyhow. "Whatever induced you to join the Army?" shouted some. "Because we were starving," replied others. "Aint yer glad yer joined?" were the remarks passed on our way home. We only expected to be away 10 days, but I suppose we done the work so good (the 17th always do) that they thought we liked it, and kept us there longer. The people of Braintree were sorry when we left (from a financial point of view, of course), and the people of Hatfield were glad when we came back (for the same reason). In fact the only coffee shop in the place nearly went broke while we were away, it is now in a flourishing condition. Over 300 new recruits from our second battalion at Bow have recently arrived at Hatfield, to go through the same training as we have had to go through. Where we go to next I don't know, but it is the hope of every man, and no doubt of friends in East London also, that the battalion will be allowed to spend Christmas at home once again. I ought to mention that other battalions have been helping in trench-digging, we didn't do it all ourselves, only if I did not mention it someone might think we had.

In gaining the Vote, American women have also gained the right of election to the legislature, but until November 3rd, there was only one woman Senator. On that date Mrs. Francis Munds was elected as Senator in the State of Arizona. Mrs. Estelle L. Lindsey has also been elected as a member of the Californian State Legislature.

The womanhood of the world must learn with deeply indignant sorrow that Russia is about to snatch away the last vestages of brave little Finland's independence. Finland was the first European country to give votes to women. Finland has shown herself to be in many respects the most progressive country in the world, but now her freedom to develop and to grow in righteousness is threatened with destruction.

Mr. Howard Marsh, Professor of Surgery in the University of Cambridge, has written to the *Times* urging that more women should quality as medical practitioners. He says, quoting Mrs. Scharlieb; "no career can offer greater happiness and satisfaction to a woman nor greater opportunities for practical usefulness than medicine."

What a change is this from the old days when the entrance of women into medicine was fiercely opposed by almost every man practitioner! And this has come about because, owing to the War, there is a scarcity of doctors. It shows how greatly considerations of expediency influence opinion on what are supposed to be questions of principle!

Mr. Allen Gee the General Secretary of the Textile Workers Trade Union says, that he does not know of a single firm being charged with supplying bad khaki, but he knows that "quite a number of firms are not paying their workers in accordance with the fair wages clause."

OUR CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

BOW BATHS, Saturday, January 2nd—3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

POPLAR TOWN HALL, Monday, January 11th—6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CANNING TOWN PUBLIC HALL, January 16th—6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

E.L.F.S. members are urged to apply for their Children's tickets at once.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW & BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. WATKINS.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Thanks to all who helped to make the bazaar at Eustace Miles' Restaurant such a success. There are still numerous dolls to dress for the Children's Party at Bow Baths on January 2nd. We also want promises of cakes and other refreshments. The E.L.F.S. is joining with the R.S.P.U. at a Benefit Concert for the babies' milk, on Dec. 16th. Tickets 3d. to be had at the shop. Send in your names as collectors for the "Milk Days" that we are organising for Dec. 16th and 17th (Wednesday and Thursday next). Next Sunday, Dec. 13th, will be the last Sunday meeting in the Women's Hall this year; come and make it a record one.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's license that has been to be raffled for so long, is to be drawn for at the members' New Year Party at Bow Baths, on January 2nd. Books of tickets must be sent in by December 20th.

Rebels' Social at the Women's Hall, on December 22nd.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Dec. 3:—Bow 310. Distributed—Mrs. Watkins, 71; Mrs. Payne, 68; Mrs. Knudson, 175; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Harmsworth 50; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
DREADNOUGHT *Secretary*, Mrs. BIRD,

Thanks to members who helped at Eustace Miles' Restaurant on Friday, December 4th, Will members please remember the Children's Party in Poplar Town Hall, on January 11th. We must work hard on Thursday evenings at getting dolls dressed for this event. Who will help with the cakes and other refreshments? Who will help to collect on the "Milk Days," Dec. 16th and 17th (Wednesday and Thursday next)?

Do not forget the club for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and others, which we are to start soon. We Poplar members must pledge ourselves to make the Club a triumphant success.

Good meetings have been held during the week, at which Mrs. Duval and Mrs. Davies kindly spoke.

127 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Dec. 4 Mrs. Schlette 91, Miss Bird 36. Distributed—Mrs. Schlette and Master Crutchfield, 700.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.
Organiser: Miss MARY PHILLIPS,
Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—
14 Butchers' Road.

The members' Social was very successful. Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker on Thursday. The Hon. Secretary gave a message from Mrs. Tidmarsh of thanks for the wreath the members had sent in memory of Mr. Tidmarsh. The next work must be the Children's Party, the date of which is now fixed for Saturday, Jan. 16th. Please help us to get together the toys and refreshments. We have already the following donations and promises:—Mrs. Pullen 1s. and two dozen toys; Miss Hopkins 3s., Miss A. Frisby 5s. Collecting boxes may be had from the Organiser and everyone anxious to help should provide herself with one for use during Christmas holidays and festivities.

Who will help to collect on "Milk Days," Dec. 16th and 17th (Wednesday and Thursday next)?

There will be no meeting at Beckton Road to-night (Friday 11th) on account of Caxton Hall meeting, which all are urged to attend. The way to get there is to take the Underground from Aldgate to St. James' Park. The hall is close to the station.

109 *Dreadnoughts* sold weekending Dec. 4.

LIMEHOUSE.

Meeting took place at Devons Vestry, Congregational Church, Burdett Road, on Thursday, Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker. It was decided that in future members should take their turn each Thursday afternoon in taking the chair for the speaker; also that one afternoon in the month members should hold the meetings themselves. Will members kindly prepare their speeches for next Thursday afternoon at 2.30. Open-air meetings held corner of Salisbury and Burdett Rd., every Tuesday evening at 7.30.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss YOUNG,
100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E.

Open-air meetings held at Lesbia Road, Monday evening at 8. Members are asked to support speaker, also to sell papers. A very good indoor meeting took place at 30 Churchill Road, Mrs. Walker the speaker. Indoor meetings will not be held in future at 30 Churchill Road. Indoor meetings will start again immediately after Christmas holidays. Time and place to be announced later.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M. P. U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
19 St. Thomas Road, Finsbury Park.

Member's meeting held December 4th. Much indignation expressed at fact that the Prime Minister has sent no reply to our last resolution, beyond an official acknowledgment by his Secretary.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That this, the N. London Branch of the M. P. U. protests against (1) The new police order, giving the police a dangerous power over the women to whom payment of relief is due: (2) The order prohibiting women from entering the public houses before 11.30 a.m. while men are allowed to do so; (3) The new tax on tea, in so far as it effects women, who will inevitably suffer heavily through it, although they have had no voice in the making of, and no responsibility for, the present war; and reiterates its demand for the immediate passing of a Bill enfranchising women on the same terms as men, which is the only just remedy for these and all the many other grievances from which women suffer."

Gratefully acknowledged — Mr. Hersey 1s., Mr. Hawkins 1s., Mr. Harvey 6d.

Good meetings held on Sunday in Regent's Park and at Highbury corner. Eighteen *Dreadnoughts* sold. Meeting Sunday next, Finsbury Park, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Frazer Smith.

The E.L.F.S. Annual Conference will be held on Monday, January 4th, for the re-election of officers and discussion of Federation business and public questions, etc. All Members must keep that evening free.—E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

Poplar members spent a pleasant and profitable afternoon on Saturday, Dec. 8th, at the Christmas sale of goods contributed by members and friends. Work for this had been started in the summer and thanks are especially due to Mrs. Organ and the Misses Lagsding for their tasteful contributions. Besides the garments made, there was a second-hand stall and a toy stall, where Mrs. Hick's penny and half-penny dolls were most popular. Hearty justice was done to the tea, the profits from which were considerably swelled by Mrs. Norris's kind gift of cakes. Members are now asking why we do not have a similar sale once a month! Between £5 and £6 has been handed over as the result of the sale, half to the General fund and half to the Distress fund.

PRICES FROM OUR FACTORY.

Flat Wooden Toys.	EACH.
Pigs	6d.
Brown, Blue and Green Birds ...	from 8d. to 1s. 6d.
Robins	8d.
Dogs	8d.
Poodles	1s. 0d.
Elephants	1s. 0d.
Kingfishers and other birds on perches...	1s. 6d. to 2s.
Boy Scouts	1s. 6d.
Girl Scouts	1s. 6d.
Soldiers	1s. 6d.
Fairies	1s. 6d.
Squirrels	1s. 6d.
Little Girls and Boys ...	9d. each, 1s. 3d. per pair.
Crawling Boy	1s. 3d. each, 2s. per pair.
Pugilists ...	2s. 9d. „ „
Countryman... ...	1s. 0d.
White Duck and 4 Ducklings	1s. 6d. the set.
Coloured Duck & 4 Ducklings	2s. 0d. the set.
"British Baby" Dolls.	
Life Size ...	5s. 6d. each.
Smaller size ...	3s. 6d. „
"Jap" Baby Dolls.	
Life size ...	7s. 6d. each.
Smaller size ...	3s. 6d. „
English Wax-headed Dolls (Ready soon).	4s. 0d. each.
English China-headed Dolls (Ready soon).	5s. 0d. each.
Dolls' Furniture.	
Large (velvet)	2s. 6d.
„ (cloth)	2s. 0d.
Small (velvet)	1s. 6d.
„ (cloth)	1s. 0d.
Doll's Beds, 12½ in., oak stained Brass knobs	1s. 6d.
Complete with bedding	5s. 6d.
Chairs	2d.
Engines (wooden).	From 2d. each.
Wooden Horses.	From 2d. each.
Horse and Cart	1s.
Pontoon Bridge	3s.
Wheelbarrows.	From 1s. 6d. each.

"Iddy Umpty" the Morse Code Game, designed by Captain Gonne. Signalling set for two children, 1s. 6d.

We print the following verses now because they seem to us even more topical than when they were written.

"WOMAN THIS, AND WOMAN THAT."

(Echo of a Barrack-room Ballad, with acknowledgments to Mr. Rudyard Kipling.)

I.

We went up to Saint Stephen's with petitions year by year;
"Get out!" the politicians cried, "we want no women here!"
While bold policemen knocked us down, because we would not run,
M.P.'s behind the railings stood and laughed to see the fun.

For it's woman this, and woman that, and "Woman, go away!"
But it's "Share and share alike, ma'am!" when the taxes are to pay;
When the taxes are to pay, my friends, the taxes are to pay,
Oh, it's "Please to pay up promptly!" when the taxes are to pay!

II.

We went before a magistrate, who would not hear us speak;
To a drunken brute who beat his wife he only gave a week;
But we were sent to Holloway a calendar month or more,
Because we dared, against his will to knock at Asquith's door.

For it's woman this, and woman that, and "Woman, wait outside!"
But it's "Listen to the Ladies!" when it suits your Party's side;
When it suits your Party's side, my friends, when M.P.'s on the stump
Are shaking in their shoes at how the cat is going to jump!

III.

When women go to work for them the Government engage
To give them lots of contract jobs at a low starvation wage;
But when it's men that they employ they always add a note—
"Fair wages must be paid"—*because the men have got the vote.*

For it's woman this, and woman that, and "Woman, learn your place!"
But it's "Help us, of your charity!" when trouble looms apace;
When trouble comes apace, my friends, when trouble comes apace,
Then it's "Oh, for woman's charity!" to help and save the race!

IV.

You dress yourselves in uniforms to guard your native shores,
But those who make the uniforms do work as good as yours;
For the soldier bears the rifle, but the woman bears the race—
And *that* you'd find no trifle, if you had to take her place!

Oh, it's woman this, and woman that, and "Woman cannot fight!"
But it's "Ministering Angel!" when the wounded come in sight;
When the wounded come in sight, my friends, the wounded come in sight,
It's a "ministering angel" then who nurses day and night!

V.

We may not be quite angels—had we been we should have flown!
We are only human beings, who have wants much like your own;
And if sometimes our conduct isn't all your fancy paints,
It wasn't man's example could have turned us into saints!

For it's woman here, and woman there, and women on the streets,
And it's how they look at women, with some men that one meets;
With many that one meets, my friends, with many that one meets—
It's the way they look at women that keeps women on the streets;

VI.

You talk of sanitation, and temperance, and schools,
And you send your male inspectors to impose your man-made rules;
"The woman's sphere's the home," you say? Then prove it to our face;
Give us the vote that we may make the home a happier place!

For it's woman this, and woman that, and "Woman, say your say!"
But it's "What's the woman up to?" when she tries to show the way;
When she tries to show the way, my friends, when she tries to show the way—
And the woman means to show it—that is why she's out to day!

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

IN HYDE PARK.

The E.L.F.S meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, was a great success. Other platforms were deserted for "the Suffragettes," and an enthusiastic audience asked us to come again. There was no sign of rowdyism—a proof that when not egged on by hired hooligans the general public is more than willing to give Suffragettes a hearing. We now propose to hold meetings in Hyde Park on alternate Sundays beginning this week (Dec. 13th), when Miss Sylvia Pankhurst will speak.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.

Mrs. Wedgewood 10.0, Mrs. Giles' monthly envelope 2.3, Sale of Work (Poplar) 2.17.5½, Limehouse Social 2.0.0, Pte. W. Cullen 1.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS:

Ridley Thornton, Esq. 4.0, E.C. (Matlock) 10.0, Miss F. Gibbons 2.0.0, Mrs. Smith 10.0, Mrs. Lambert 1.3, Miss J. Hinton 3.0.0, Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly) 10.0, Nurse Godwin 3.0, Miss Nora Morrison (monthly) 2.6, Miss D. L. Dubock 2.6, Miss J. Barrowman 5.0, Mrs. Tyson 10.0, Miss M. Burgess 5.0, Mrs. Hoare 10.0, Mrs. Brewster 3.6, Mrs. Grieve £1.0.6, Misses Glicksten 10.0, Miss D. Rock 2.0, Mrs. Vatcher 5.0, per Tom Norris, Esq., 15.0, Miss Eva Chapman 10.6, Three North London Loco' Men 3.0, Mrs. Morrison 10.0, Mrs. Harben 15.0, Mrs. Wedgewood 1.0.0, The Violet Nursery, Miss K. Fitzroy 3.6.0, The Stall at Eustace Miles' Restaurant 20.5.2½, Miss Raleigh 10.0, Miss T. G. Sainbury 2.6, Miss James 10.0, Miss Marie Kenthe (monthly) 4.0, Poplar Sale of Work 2.17.5, per Mr. Clark 8.0, Mrs. Powles 1.0, Miss Tuford 1.0, Mrs. Grant 5.0.

Collected—Mrs. Watkins 18.9½, Mrs. Wood 6.0, Bromley Centre 0.9, Miss Isaacs 5.5, Miss Ada Fleming 2.6.

CLOTHES—Miss Salm, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Durrant, Miss Nimmo, Mrs. Thewlis, Miss S. Grier, Mrs. L. Henderson, Mrs. J. H. Clark, A Scottish Well-wisher, Mrs. Withall, Miss Grant, The Bournmouth Women's Social and Political Union, Miss Glicksten, Miss Lacey, Miss Bain, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Violet Warren, Miss Bennett, Miss T. Abraham, Mrs. Hargreaves, Baby Lover's Club.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

An inquiry has been made by the Manchester Committee of the National Relief Fund in regard to increased drinking; but of 100 districts, only 16 reported increased drinking. Here are two typical extracts from the reports:—

"It is very noticeable that when a soldier returns home for a few days the event is generally celebrated by drinking. Apart from this, there does not seem to be any increase in drunkeness, and some of the public houses are feeling the drop in their sales."

"From my own personal experience in this district, I do not think there is any increase in the number of people who drink. The women who drank to excess before the War continue to do so, but, generally speaking, they are not women in receipt of relief or separation allowance. On the whole, so far as my experience goes, the wives of the soldiers spend their money well."

TO BRITISH BORN WIVES OF ALIENS.

Funds have been placed at the American Embassy by the German and Austrian Governments for the relief of their distressed peoples in this country. These funds may not continue to be available for British born wives of interned aliens. The Government has therefore given instructions to Boards of Guardians to relieve and to make allowances to these women. The allowances are not to be considered as Poor Law relief, but as advances on behalf of the Government. The allowances are to be at the rate of 10s. a week for the wife and 1s. 6d. a week for each child in London. In the country the wives allowance will be 8s. a week, the child's 1s. 6d.

PLUM PUDDINGS, 1s. and 8d. per lb., from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, and 20 Railway St., Poplar

At our Stall at Eustace Miles' Restaurant we sold over £20 worth of goods. A very successful meeting was held at the Suffrage Club on December 7th. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was the speaker. Collection and sales amounted to £9 6s. 8d.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.